AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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VOL. 3 NO. 44 WASHINGTON, D. C. SATURDAY, JANUARY 31 1914. WHOLE NO. 148

INSIST ON the Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know. You have

HELP THE MINERS. Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

TO TURN LIGHT ON STRIKES

Michigan and Colorado Conditions To Be Investigated.

WIDE POWER GIVEN COMMITTEE

A. F. of L. Officials Hold Conference with Labor Group, Who Urged Adoption of Resolution.

Washington, Jan. 21.—By a vote of 154 to 15 the House of Representatives has ordered its Committee on Mines and Mining to make a thorough, impartial investigation of conditions in the Michigan copper fields and the Colorado coal fields. The committee is given wide powers and will have authority to subpoena witnesses and to hold hearings wherever it may find it necessary. Under the resolution, the following questions will be given special consideration: Whether a system of peonage is or has been maintained in those strike zones; whether the postal service has been interfered with; whether the immigration laws have been violated; investigate the charge that citizens of the United States have been discarded treatment that is in violation of the Constitution; investigate the charge that combinations exist that have for their purpose the controlling of the product of those fields; and the charge that firearms have been shipped into those fields to further this purpose; in the event any or all of these conditions exist, investigate the causes leading up to said conditions. Because of the agitation that has been conducted under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor, little opposition to the resolution was presented. One of the best speeches made in favor of the resolution's adoption was that delivered by Congressman Lewis, a member of the labor group, who said: "Shall the laws be so reformulated as to provide a peaceful remedy for these conflicts between labor and the employer? And the essential elements of that subject involve both state and federal institutions, the most effective law. For example, I think that all will agree that the feudal system is incompatible and inconsistent with American institutions and in conflict with our established civilization. And yet, let me say, that in the mining industry it is common for an incorporated company to own the land, own the mine, own the jobs, own the store, and even the transportation, the means of ingress and egress to its one industry, town, or community. In that case I suggest you have the feudal system as complete as it has ever shown itself in history." For the purpose of creating sentiment in favor of the resolution, the A. F. of L. Executive Council held a conference with the Congressional Labor Group, and President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, and Legislative Representative Holder conferred with Speaker Clark and Representative Underwood, leader of the Democratic side in Congress. The following other unionists were in the city and gave aid to this work: Vice President Mahoney of the Western Federation of Miners, John Walker of the A. F. of L. Mining Department, President Mahon of the Amalgamated Street Car Men, President Taylor of the Michigan Federation of Labor, and Organizer Mullen of the United Mine Workers of America.

ATTACK INDICTMENTS.

Houghton, Mich., Jan. 31.—Attorneys for the striking copper miners have made a motion to quash the indictments returned against them by the special grand jury. The legality of the grand jury and its methods are questioned. It is claimed that the grand jury was illegally summoned and called, and that the appointment of George E. Nichols, a special prosecuting officer, is illegal because no showing has been made to warrant such appointment or claims made of a lack of capacity on the part of the duly elected prosecuting attorney. Objection is also called to the law which provides that the grand jury shall be conducted in proceedings in secret, and it is claimed that Governor Ferris, of Michigan; Special Prosecutor Nichols and three stenographers, who were named as persons present, "were not by law authorized to take part in the deliberations of the grand jury." Several workers were absent when their names were called to answer the charge of conspiracy, it is claimed. Eight union men, but the miner's attorneys told the court they would be present when needed.

HONORED LABOR'S CHIEF.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The banquet tendered President Gompers on the occasion of his sixty-fourth birthday by the Washington Central Labor Union was attended by over 300 trade unionists and friends. President Wilson sent his well wishes. Addresses were made by Secretary of Navy Daniels, Secretary of Labor Wilson, Brothers Stephens and Maguire, members of the Congressional labor group, Attorney Congressman, trade unionists, and Secretary Frank Morrison, one of the banqueters was Tony Costello, who walked 3,000 miles to bring fraternal greetings to President Gompers from Galveston, Texas, trade unionists and their official organ, the Weekly Dispatch.

TO FORM CLERKS' UNION.

Pittsburgh, Jan. 31.—Railway Clerks are discussing organization, and the indications are unanimous that unity will be accomplished in the very near future. It is proposed to make the special trade one of the branches until a spirit of fraternity is developed, when it is believed that better working conditions and wage adjustments can be secured without friction.

LAW APPLIES TO PIECE WORK.

Hoquiam, Wash., Jan. 31.—Employers of this trade cannot evade the nine-hour eight-hour law by placing their workers on a piece-work system. This decision has been made in the case of a box manufacturing company charged by the state labor commissioner with violating the law. The company's attorney's defense was overruled and it was fined $200 and costs.

STEAMSHIP COMPANY FINED.

San Francisco, Jan. 21.—Immigration authorities have imposed a fine of $1,000 against the Pacific Mail Steamship company for transporting Asiatic aliens affected with hookworm. The local authorities held that the company should have had the aliens examined at the port of embarkation.

A MONSTER UNDERTAKING.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—Railroads entering this city are planning a co-operative system of electrification that will include both freight and passenger traffic in and around Chicago. Forty roads will be interested, and it is claimed the cost will equal the Panama Canal expenditure.

TO VOTE ON LABOR TEMPLE.

Denver, Jan. 31.—Trade unionists of this city are now voting on a proposal submitted to them by the Central body that has for its purpose the raising of funds for a Labor temple.

REFUSES TO LEAVE TOWN.

Claremont, N. H., Jan. 31.—John Luthringer, of Jersey City, N. J., organizer of the International Union of Mine Specialists, was visited by a delegation of business men who notified the unionist that: "The residents and business interests of this town do not want you or any other labor organizer in the township. We strongly request that you leave the town at once, as you will not be allowed to succeed in your work of organizing." The chief of police is in sympathy with this plan and notified Luthringer that he would not be allowed to speak in the public square. The machinist said that the police officials would speak wherever he chose in accordance with his ideas of free speech, and in reply to the business men declared he would stay in Claremont and try to get a living wage for the machinists brought the influence of organization under the banner of the American Federation of Labor. The business men have appointed a committee to "protect the fair name and best interests of this town," and the chief of police has detailed men to watch Luthringer, who has secured fifty names to a charter application. Officers of the International Association of Machinists, located in Washington, have notified Luthringer that they will back his purpose the controlling of the product of those fields; and the charge that firearms have been shipped into those fields to further this purpose; in the event any or all of these conditions exist, investigate the causes leading up to said conditions. Because of the agitation that has been conducted under the auspices of the American Federation of Labor, little opposition to the resolution was presented. One of the best speeches made in favor of the resolution's adoption was that delivered by Congressman Lewis, a member of the labor group, who said: "Shall the laws be so reformulated as to provide a peaceful remedy for these conflicts between labor and the employer? And the essential elements of that subject involve both state and federal institutions, the most effective law. For example, I think that all will agree that the feudal system is incompatible and inconsistent with American institutions and in conflict with our established civilization. And yet, let me say, that in the mining industry it is common for an incorporated company to own the land, own the mine, own the jobs, own the store, and even the transportation, the means of ingress and egress to its one industry, town, or community. In that case I suggest you have the feudal system as complete as it has ever shown itself in history." For the purpose of creating sentiment in favor of the resolution, the A. F. of L. Executive Council held a conference with the Congressional Labor Group, and President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, and Legislative Representative Holder conferred with Speaker Clark and Representative Underwood, leader of the Democratic side in Congress. The following other unionists were in the city and gave aid to this work: Vice President Mahoney of the Western Federation of Miners, John Walker of the A. F. of L. Mining Department, President Mahon of the Amalgamated Street Car Men, President Taylor of the Michigan Federation of Labor, and Organizer Mullen of the United Mine Workers of America.

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MINERS' POINT SUSTAINED.

Hazelton, Pa., Jan. 31.—Charles P. Neill, arbitrator between mine workers in the Drifton colliery of Coxe Brothers and the latter company, has rendered in favor of the employes whose wages for track laying was reduced from sixty-five cents to forty cents a yard. The company claimed the high rate was a result of the strike, but Mr. Neill refused to sustain this position, which, if upheld, he declares, would lead to a premium for strikes, as a precedent. The arbitrator shows that the same position has been taken in some cases adjusted in 1913, that the wages "a rate paid and accepted without protest and for a considerable period, thereby becomes an established rate and is not subject to change except by consent of both sides." In sustaining the men in the case at issue the arbitrator declares that the reduction was improper and unwarranted, and that no right to make the change before the men "the matter up with their employe

$8,000 NOT TOO MUCH.

Indianapolis, Jan. 31.—The state supreme court has decided that a verdict for $8,000 damages against a coal company, killed in the mines, is not excessive. An employe of the Shirley Hill Coal company was killed because the roof of the mine caved in, it is apdue to proper condition. The lower court awarded $5,000 damages, and the case was appealed on the ground that the judgment was excessive. The supreme court declined to accept this view, and in its decision it pointed out that the decedent was thirty-five years of age, in good health, was qualified as an engineer, and was earning $85 a month, had a life expectancy of thirty-one years, and left a widow and five children.

ONE KIND OF "ARBITRATION."

Fall River, Jan. 21. Public hearings by the Massachusetts State Board of Arbitration and Conciliation in the case of striking waiters at the plant of the American Printing works have failed. 1,500 Textile Workers are now involved because the company discharged the leaders of the strike and refused to reinstate him. The State board has fail'ed to affect a settlement, though the workers agree to abide by an arbitration award. When asked if the company would take the same position, Assistant Secretary Durfee quoted the company saying that "before answering the question that he would want to know just what the finding would mean to his concern."

SECURE INCREASE.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Jan. 31.—Textile Workers at the Laurel Silk Mills company have increased wages 10 per cent after a strike that lasted nearly twenty weeks. A local affiliated to the International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Asbestos Workers has been organized, and recent activities have stimulated organization among the Laundry Workers, Bookbinders, Printers, Bakers, and Brick and Tile Workers, all of whom are urging the formation of trade unions.

FAVOR SIX-HOUR DAY.

San Francisco, Jan. 31.—The Bay District Council of Carpenters will submit a referendum vote the question of reducing hours to six a day in an effort to equalize work. The unionists claim that a large number of workers of their craft are now unemployed because of the claims made in eastern newspapers that work is good in this city because of the erection of exposition buildings.

MUSICIANS LOCKED OUT.

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 31.—The management of the Duval theater has decided that the number of musicians employed is too many, and has notified them that those who will not accept the change, they refused to work. The leader of the orchestra has secured a contract for the season, but this the management broke.

DECLARE FOR EIGHT HOURS.

Aberdeen, Wash., Jan. 31.—The convention of the International Union of Shingle Weavers, Sawmill Workers, and Woodmen has declared in favor of an eight-hour day in the lumber industry with a minimum wage of $2.25 a day. Another resolution calls for the use of ventilation in the mills, thereby removing dust that is injurious to the workers' health.

SYNOPSIS OF MORE IMPORTANT DECISIONS BY A. F. OF L. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Washington, Jan. 21.—At the last meeting of the American Federation of Labor Executive Council, President Gompers and Secretary Morrison made an extended report of work done and work in hand on behalf of the striking copper miners. These officials were instructed to immediately issue another appeal to affiliated unions for further financial assistance to the copper miners, and on the power given it by the last convention, the Council ordered that a one cent assessment be levied for organization purposes among the women wage workers. It was also decided to give effect to resolutions directing the Council to prepare a series of bills to be presented to Congress which will have for their purpose the providing of work for unemployed by the government along the lines suggested by the Executive Council in its report to the Seattle convention. It was decided that the officers of the Executive Council, who are officers of their international unions, write to their local unions requesting the officers to communicate with their Senators and Representatives urging the support and passage of the Bartlett-Bacon bill. The president members of the Council were empowered to take such action as they deem fit to amend the Sherman anti-trust law. Numerous subjects were referred to President Gompers, Secretary Morrison, Legislative Representative Holder, and the legislative committee, and numerous questions of interest to affiliated organizations were taken up. The following other proposals were among those acted upon favorably: Aiding the establishment of a federation agreement between all unions in a given industry to the end that these organizations may act jointly in matters offensive and defensive. To support every measure having for its purpose the decreasing of preventable disease. Rural credit system. Calling on teachers to organize and urging state bodies to extend use of free text-books and improve their quality. The establishment of free legal advice bureaus wherever possible. An eight-hour day and one day rest in seven. Asking the Industrial Relations Commission to investigate strikes on the Illinois Central and Harriman lines. To continue the appropriation to the Women's Trade Union League. Appropriate $500 to Canadian Trades and Labor Congress for legislative work. Notice of Hatters' trust suppose that suits will be continued. Against the extension of militarism in the United States in any form. Against present contract system in the handling of mail and urging an increased number of safety appliance inspectors. Requesting the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe necessary regulations for the enforcement of the present convict labor law. Extending functions of parcel post to include work now done by express companies. Favoring uniform legislation regulating advertisements for workers during strikes. Debarring employment of white women or girls in establishments controlled by Chinese or Japanese. Loaning postal savings deposits to the people, preferably to wage earners and farmers trying to secure homes. Favoring public ownership railroads to equip their roads with automatic stop systems and the government pay overtime for work over eight hours. To secure an amendment to existing law which will make it obligatory to give railroad men twenty-four consecutive hours' rest during every period of 168 hours. Saturday half-holiday for navy yard employes. Old age pensions along lines recommended to last convention by Executive Council.

A "LABOR FORWARD SUNDAY."

Brooklyn, Jan. 21.—The Central Labor Union is perfecting arrangements for a "Labor Forward Sunday," on February 8, when a large number of clergymen in this city, regardless of denomination, have promised to speak on "Things to be done—By the employes, organization; by the public, social legislation; by the employer, recognition of the right of the workers to organize and co-operation in enforcing the law." In a report to the Central body, made jointly by clergymen and unionists, it was shown that 200,000 persons are employed in the Brooklyn clothing and millinery industry, and over 75,000 employed in the metal working, printing, and paper manufacturing, textile and leather industries and in the street cleaning service. The minimum wage is per week and the maximum of hours for some of these workers is fifteen hours a day. Most of these industries are unorganized and it is toward them that the Forward movement will devote its energies. A committee representing Brooklyn unionists appeared before the executive council of the American Federation of Labor at its last meeting, and the council indorsed the plan and instructed Organizer Thayer, located in New York City, to render all the assistance possible.

PRAISES TRADE UNIONS.

San Jose, Cal., Jan. 21.—In welcoming delegates to the annual convention of the State Building Trades Council, Mayor Monahan reviewed the fact that the many emplishments made possible by the trade union movement, and declared these organizations were responsible for the enactment for much of the progressive legislation which has placed California in the forefront in the matter of protecting human life and safeguarding the interests of the common people. Walter G. Mathews, also a member of the State Industrial Welfare Commission, spoke along similar lines. Gov. Johnson, who was kept in his residence of his inability to attend the convention, but the State executive committee was represented by Secretary Jackson. There were 250 delegates present, who represented 400 unions. The convention was a harmonious one.

FAIL TO SETTLE STRIKE.

Hazelton, Pa., Jan. 21.—All attempts to settle the local street car strike have failed because the company insists that the president of the union, together with members of the grievance committee should not be reinstated, and that all returning strikers should sign a blank which, in effect, gave the company power to discharge at will. The strikers rejected the proposals. The differences have existed for several months, but no car men have succeeded in making operation of the road impossible.

BROKE ALL RECORDS.

Fresno, Cal., Jan. 21.—The Laundry Workers union broke all records in local circles by initiating 105 members at its last meeting. Credit for the success of new agreements, which included laundries that had formerly been outside the fold. An organizer is now located in this city and a union contract by the Worswick company, the largest cement concern in the San Joaquin valley. The company agrees to employ only union men and observe union conditions.

REGULATES PICKETING.

Cleveland, Jan. 31.—Common Pleas Judge Lawrence has issued an injunction against striking waiters at the Statler Hotel fixing the number of pickets at four men. The order provides that not more than two strikers can picket on either side of the two street entrances to the hotel; that they can distribute no cards referring to the hotel service, and they cannot accost guests other than to inform them quietly that a strike is in progress.

HAS ENLARGED POWERS.

Spokane, Wash., Jan. 31.—According to a decision by the attorney-general of this state, the Industrial Welfare Commission has unlimited power to fix the rules under which licensed barbers may work, and to prescribe or physically defective females to work for less than the minimum wage which the women may receive. Under the commission sweeping powers to determine what shall constitute an occupation, trade of industry.

TEXAS LAW HAS "JOKER."

Austin, Jan. 31.—Unionists are preparing to make the state law for the prevention of blacklisting effective. It is said that of goodly dimensions has been discovered, in that no punishment is provided or that shall be inflicted on an agent of the employer.

TO MEET IN BIRMINGHAM.

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 21.—The annual convention of the Southern Railway and Allied Lines will meet in this city on February 23.

FLOUR PACKERS ORGANIZE.

Topeka, Jan. 31.—Flour packers employed in the several mills of this city have perfected a temporary organization and intend applying for an A. F. of L. charter.

GOING UP.

Washington, Jan. 31.—In his report to the Executive Council, Secretary Frank Morrison shows that for the three months of October, November, and December, 1913, the national and international unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor made an average gain in membership of 174,139 over the corresponding three months of 1912, and an average gain in membership December, 1913, over December, 1912, of 184,460. In December of last year the per capita tax receipts were on a membership of 2,114,691. In December, 1912, per capita tax membership was based on a membership of 1,930,231. During the last three months of the year just ended forty-eight charters were issued, as follows: 25 central bodies, 5; local trade unions, 32, and federal labor unions, 8.

A PLAN TO BAR ASIATICS

Secretary of Labor Wilson Would Apply U. S. Army Test.

SAYS QUESTION IS A SERIOUS ONE

General Movement to Migrate to This Country—Points to Canada's Drastic Laws.

Washington, Jan. 21.—In response to a request from Congressman Raker, a document on the Raker bill, which provides for Asiatic exclusion, Secretary of Labor Wilson, of the Department of Labor, writes that the problem would be solved if Congress raised the standard of admission so as to include in the list of excluded aliens those persons not able to pass the physical tests required of recruits for the United States army. "Inasmuch as the vast majority of the present-day immigrants must earn a livelihood, if at all, by performing manual labor," says the secretary, "I see no reason why the standard should not be raised to this point." The letter states that if we fail to legislate against the Asiatics, as Canada has done, in a far more drastic manner, we tacitly invite these peoples to our shores. Mr. Wilson further says that there is a concerted movement among the Chinese in this country, "as climatic and industrial conditions in the southern and southwestern sections of the Union offer an extensive field for a people who can come in practically without competition." The letter, exclusive of those from the Philippines, 6,656 Hindus entered the United States. This migration officials will be confronted with problems growing out of increasing immigration of Asiatic laborers from countries other than China, Japan or India. Chairman Burnett is also informed that the Department of Labor was notified last spring that 6,000 or 7,000 from the Philippines were ready to start for here at the first sign of the open door.

WELL STATED.

Chicago, Jan. 21.—The Tribune, of this city, published the following comment on an incident which would be impossible if the Bartlett-Bacon bill, now before Congress, is passed: "The charges against the heads of the United Mine Workers, the charges of conspiring to restrain trade and of maintaining a system of terrorism for labor, on which they are now tried in West Virginia and are to be tried in Colorado, might well raise doubts and misgivings in the minds of the public. Should the calling and effective conduct of a strike be made a conspiracy in restraint of trade, should a strong union be declared a monopoly of labor, it will mean the death of trade unionism. This is hardly to be desired. Trade unionism pretty generally represents intelligence in its calling and conduct of labor disputes. It represents progress, education, and orderliness even in the clashes of the Shop Employes of the Southern Railway and Allied Lines will meet in this city on February 23.

REDUCE MINE FATALITIES.

Washington, Jan. 21.—In his forthcoming annual report, Director Holmes of the Bureau of Mines will call attention to the general increase of interest of mine workers, operators, and the public in general in questions relating to safety in the industry. In his report he will state that "in spite of the fact that there has been a considerable increase in the number of mines and men in the business of coal miners employed, there has been a marked decrease in the number of fatalities and accidents in the mining operations." While the Bureau of Mines does not claim all the credit for this condition, the bureau has been the source of information and investigating the questions of accident prevention has stimulated the worker and operator, who, together with various state mine inspectors, have in many instances cooperated in developing sentiment that will aid in the reduction of fatalities. This sentiment has resulted in the more general establishment of mine rescue and first-aid corps or squads in mining companies wherever the Bureau of Mines' cars have done training and demonstration work, which has been attended by delegations for the past three years, during which time 21,322 miners have been trained in the use of the bureau's equipment. During the past year over 46,000 persons interested in mining matters of various (mainly mines) visited the bureau's safety-car stations maintained by the bureau, nearly 22,000 miners attended the mine-rescue stations, and another 5,500 miners were given rescue or first-aid training.

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR.

Philadelphia, Jan. 31.—The shorter work week movement, which, at the A. F. of L. convention, at Seattle, has had a stimulating effect on Pennsylvania trade unionists, is already busily preparing for the next session of the state legislature, which convenes January 6, next year. While the time seems rather distant, President Maurer and associate officers of the State Federation of Labor have already agreed upon a vigorous plan of action in favor of only a few bills which they will endeavor to have enacted into law. This decision is the result of experience gained at the last legislature, when it was learned that fewer bills can be watched to better advantage. One of the bills to be presented next year will be expressed for passage will be a child labor bill, that will provide, for an eight-hour day, the prohibition against the labor of children under sixteen years of age. It will also prohibit the employment of night work in the messenger service, the glass industry, and the canneries. Boys under sixteen years of age, and girls under eighteen will be barred from the street trades, and the children will be protected from being employed by others by compelling the employer to return promptly to the issuing officer employment certificates of children who have left establishment.

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SENATE O. K.'S ALASKA ROAD.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The United States Senate, by a vote of 46 to 34, has passed the Alaska railway bill, which directs the president to purchase or construct 1,000 miles of railroad in Alaska at a cost not to exceed $40,000,000. The bill gives the president broad powers in selecting a route from tidewater into the interior, and in the construction, equipment and operation or leasing of such lines as he may build or buy to constitute this route. Seventy-five per cent of all moneys derived from the sale of public lands in Alaska or of the coal or mineral shall be placed in a fund for the use of the road. No Chinese labor or any machinery used in the construction of the Panama canal. The government is prohibited from buying the "good will" of existing roads, and injured employes are given the right to sue the government. An amendment that will make the federal employes' liability law of 1908 applicable to the government as a railway operator was adopted unanimously. A similar bill is now pending in the House of Representatives, and it is predicted that it will be adopted.

TRAIN ORDERS BY PHONE.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Urging the adoption of bills that will limit trainmen to sixteen continuous hour a day and telegraph and telephone operators to nine hours a day, President Perham, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers told the House Committee on Commerce that forty per cent of the railroads are permitting trainmen to take orders by telephone when they should not do so, and said that he knew of stretches of railroad 200 miles long where trainmen had displaced telegraphers in receiving train orders and that on some interurban railroads trainmen order trains by wire from dispatchers on their cuffs. Perham said his organization was not opposing the telephone, but only legislation against the safeguards in its use. The other railroad brotherhoods are represented at these hearings.

UPHOLDS THE REFERENDUM.

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 21.—The Court of Appeals has reversed the opinion of the lower court, declaring that the law voters were not legislators. The lower court held the law illegal because the people, by voting directly for or against a law, were legislating, and it was held that the referendum was a delegation of the legislature's power, prohibited by the constitution. The Court of Appeals, in its decision, held that the people, the legislature, in ordering the referendum, did not delegate any of its powers to the people, and that the action of the jury reform law by the people was merely the condition upon which the statute was to become effective.

SEEK PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

Trenton, Jan. 31.—The state commissioner of education has made public statistics relating to the year, which shows the studies now being favored by pupils in New Jersey high schools. The tendency is away from the public belief that "extreme emphasis upon [illegible] languages" in our present day commercial and industrial activities, and that this sentiment is reflected in public schools by the growth of courses in technical, commercial and vocational schools. The following subjects have not been favored: Greek, Spanish, German, French, algebra, plane and solid geometry, ancient, mediaeval and English history, civics, United States history, and civics. The most favored studies are: Agriculture, physical training, household chemistry, mathematics and inventional or concrete geometry.

AGAINST CHILD LABOR.

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 31.—Secretary-Treasurer Hanson, of the Southern Conference of Women and Child Labor, in interesting trade unions and sympathetic organizations in the coming conference, to be held at New Orleans, starting Monday, March 16. In an official letter to local unions Mr. Hanson declares: "The Southern Conference on Woman and Child Labor has accomplished much during its existence, and has a great task before it, and wishes the co-operation of all men and women and all organizations interested in the welfare of humanity, to the end that little children may be kept from the factory and the workshop and placed in school, where they belong, and the condition of women and children to earn A livelihood may be improved."

RETAIN NINE-HOUR DAY.

Fall River, Mass., Jan. 31.—President Golden, of the United Textile Workers of America, has succeeded in adjusting differences between local No. 69 at West New Bedford, Mass., and employers. The last summer these workers demanded better conditions and after a five week's strike reduced hours from fifty-five a week to forty-nine and one-half hours. It was also agreed that a 10 per cent increase should be installed within four months. Later an attempt was made by the company officials to abrogate the agreement, but a strike was held in abeyance until President Golden arrived on the scene. The matter was finally adjusted and back pay was paid on the basis of the 10 per cent raise. The shorter hours clause remains in force.

A CURIOUS DECISION.

New York, Jan. 21.—In the United States District Court, Judge Ward has issued a permanent injunction against the Brotherhood of Carpenters from interfering with Frank & Cassens, manufacturers of woodwork, who allege that the union interfered with them in fulfilling contracts with employers during the nine-hour strike. The court held: "It is true that workmen have a right not to work, or to refuse to work, when they choose, or for what but it does not follow that they have a right to prevent others from doing so." The country, because such a combination results in directly restraining competition between manufacturers."

MINERS ARE CAUTIOUS.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 31.—By an emphatic vote, the Ohio miners, in convention, rejected the proposal that they suspension of work on April 1 if the new scale is not signed at that time. Opponents of the plan showed that there will be a meeting of miners and operators at Philadelphia on March 2, and the officials of district associations have decided to await the outcome of the conference. The same procedure should be followed in Ohio.

RAISE PER CAPITA.

Lowell, Mass., Jan. 21.—The state convention of the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers has increased the per capita tax to 3 cents a year. The bill for a stricter inspection of ladders used by painters while working on upper parts of houses was indorsed.

RIGHT TO STOP WORK UPHELD

Supreme Court Commission Takes Advanced Position.

SAYS MEN ARE THE SOLE JUDGE

Acts Lawful for Individual, Loss No Force When Done by a Number of Individuals.

Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 31.—In an opinion written by Judge Brewer, the State Supreme Court Commission took an advanced position on the right of organized labor to strike in protest against the employment of a non-unionist. Should the latter, according to the decision, has no cause for action, as workingmen have the right, in the absence of contract, to quit whenever they choose. The decision is the result of a threatened strike of union miners against the Wheatley Coal & Mining Company at Lehigh, Okla., unless a non-unionist was discharged. The mine foreman complied with the request, and the non-unionist then sued the union for $100,000 damages. The lower court sustained the union, and on appeal the State Supreme Court Commission affirmed the ruling. "Employes of a coal company," said Judge Brewer, "who are members of a labor union, have the right to refuse to work in a mine in dispute between themselves and their employer, and a provision in a rule relating to protest to their employer against the employment or retention in his employment of a non-unionist does not go to accompany such protest with the statement that if such non-union man is employed, or he is co-laborers objectionable, his right to quit is absolute. What a single individual may do, a number of his co-laborers may join in doing, provided the thing to be done is lawful."

NEWS FROM BALTIMORE.

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 31.—The Retail Clerks have started an outdoor organizing campaign that will last for several weeks. Automobiles, decorated with banners and bunting, have been secured, and meetings are held every evening in the vicinity of large department stores. The campaign is being conducted in the interest shown by the unorganized workers, both male and female, in the union. The local has increased its membership rolls are increasing daily. A new charter, Longshoremen, with 112 members, has been established at Locust Point. The Central body has instructed its attorney to draft a bill providing methods of drawing grand jury names. The present plan is to use the city directory, but the bill will be used to secure names for petit juries. Under existing law property holders are eligible for grand jury duty, and the unionists claim this hampers the enforcement of labor laws. Bakers' local, No. 241, has secured an eight-hour day from the United States Baking company, with 54 hours as the weekly pay days for employes in the city engineering department is urged. International Labor Legislation and International are making a special effort to organize the colored workers in the Locust Point district. Gains for 1913 are reported as successful. During the recent eight weeks' strike these colored men, and among the most stanchest pleaders for better conditions. The strike was settled in favor of the longshoremen after the strike was adjusted.

FAVOR SUNDAY CLOSING.

Indianapolis, Jan. 31.—Reports to headquarters of the International Union of Journeymen Barbers indicate that the movement inaugurated to create favorable sentiment in favor of a law for Sunday closing of barber shops. The State branch has also taken a letter of petition to Governor Dunne against a reduction of the appropriation for the State Board of Barber Examiners. The barbers report that the license fees turned into the State treasury by them is in excess of the expenses required to maintain the board. The local at Augusta, Ga., claims to have made a big inroad on the Sunday trade, one of the shops in its jurisdiction after one year's existence. Tacoma, Wash., reports a big gain in membership of 217 a new scale per week basis, with a nine-hour day, which must be worked in ten hours. California reports new laws and the Kansas City local is securing petitions in favor of establishing a Sunday closing law by means of the referendum. The local at Kansas is urging the same question in that city.

PLUMBERS REPORT GAINS.

Chicago, Jan. 31.—The Plumbers and Steam Fitters' Journal reports reduction of hours from ten to nine per day, wages increase from 40 to 50 cents an hour, a big increase in membership, and union shop. These gains have been made as the result of one year's organization. The Los Angeles local has increased 75 per cent in a six months' period, has reduced hours from nine to eight, secured a union shop and established a minimum wage of $4 per day. Boone, Iowa, was organized in September, 1913, and has secured a nine hour day working nine hours a day for $3. Their rate is now $4 for eight hours. Evansville, Ind., has secured a union shop, providing for the regulation of apprentices. Newly granted charters are in force at Ottumwa, Iowa, and Hamilton, Ohio. Reports secured petitions in favor of establishing a Sunday closing law by means of the referendum. The local at Kansas is urging the same question in that city.

AN INTERESTING QUESTION.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 21.—Are coal miners living in Ohio, but working in a neighboring state, subject to the laws of state and actually mining coal in a portion of the mine across the border in another state? This is the case with 1,000 miner's compensation law? The question has been referred to Attorney General Hogan by the State Industrial Commission, because certain mines have their shafts on one side of the line in Ohio, but the mines lie on the other side. One mine in Ohio has a tunnel beneath the Ohio river into West Virginia, where the miners work. Also one mine in Ohio has a tunnel into Pennsylvania. The commission claims that they are protected by the Ohio law, and it is believed their position will be upheld.

NEW RATE FOR BILLERS.

Boston, Jan. 31.—Billposters and Billers' Union, No. 17, is preparing a new scale for the year. It is proposed to increase the rate per week from $18 to $20 a month, and the number of hours from 54 to 48 per week. The new rate will provide a flat rate of $4 a month and all extra work will be paid for at the rate of $1 per hour, and that the hold over practice be abolished.